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The Journal

OF THE

JAMAICA AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

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NOTICE.

OWING to the earthquake which happened in Kingston at 3.33 p.m. on 11th January, the office at 4 Port Royal Street was utterly wrecked, and the printers establishment in Harbour Street was not only wrecked but burned. The Journal for January was almost ready for issue at the time, but was destroyed, and with it our records of the December meeting of the Board of Management.

Owing to the disorganization of business the monthly meeting of the Board of Management was not held in January or in February.

It was fortunate for us that the Agricultural Conference was being held at the Old Mico College buildings high up in Hanover Street for the office staff, with the exception of the Typist, was engaged there and a part of the office equipment was also there. The Typist, who was at 4 Port Royal Street, luckily escaped with slight injury, while all those in the Conference Hall escaped unharmed, the building although cracked and shaken, not falling down.

The fire did not extend to 4 Port Royal Street, and we have been able to dig out most of the office books and a large proportion of our papers.

The office has been temporarily installed at the Old Mico, 82 Hanover Street, Kingston.

Address :—The Secretary

The Jamaica Agricultural Society,

82 Hanover Street,

Kingston.

WEST INDIA AGRICULTURAL CONFERENCE.

IT will be remembered that this Conference was arranged to be held in Jamaica in January 1906, but through the alteration of the itinerary of the Royal Mail Steamers, the delegates from the other parts of the West Indies could not get to Jamaica direct and they would have been kept too long away from their posts by the long route the Royal Mail Steamers now take from Barbados and Trinidad. Through the great interest Sir Alfred Jones takes in Jamaica, Sir Daniel Morris was able to arrange with him with the sanction of the Government here, to divert the *Port Kingston* from her usual route, to call at Barbados. A large and distinguished party from the United Kingdom accompanied Sir Alfred Jones. They had only time to have a look at Barbados, where the *Port Kingston* embarked the delegates who had gathered there from the other parts of the West Indies. The *Port Kingston* came on to Jamaica, arriving on Friday morning 11th January punctually to the minute, 7 o'clock.

The arrangements made for the reception of the delegates were all complete and a party left by special train at 8 o'clock to visit plantations around Spanish Town, and in Vere.

Various other trips were arranged :—to Montpelier to see the fine cattle properties there ; to Newcastle and Port Royal Mountains to see coffee plantations ; to St. Ann, to see the "garden of Jamaica"; to Port Antonio to go through the banana growing country of St. Mary and Portland. Mr. Grabow, the Manager of Titchfield Hotel, Port Antonio, saw his opportunity to impress the visitors with the capacity, equipment, and beauty of situation of the hotel and offered to give all the delegates and visitors the freedom of his house from Saturday to Monday. All the other Saturday trips were therefore dropped in favour of the trip to Port Antonio. Special cars brought the visitors from Constant Spring Hotel to the Railway Station where a special train leaving Kingston at 8.15 took them to Port Antonio, stopping at Bog Walk to see Mr. McPhail's orange sizer at work ; at Highgate to walk up to the top of the hill and view the large expanse of hill and valley spread below, covered with bananas, with the sea in the distance ; at Annotto Bay to watch the breakers of the Caribbean roll on the shore ; at Rowntree's Cocoa factory to see the cocoa dried; at Mr. Mason's cocoa and rubber plantation—one of the best in the Island where the delegates were impressed with the free growth of the young rubber trees ; and at Mr. Cork's at Burlington, where the visitors having walked up the road along the Rio Grande a most beautiful stream, saw Mr. Cork's large Castilloa Rubber trees, which, planted about 12 years ago had grown without any cultivation and were the parent trees of many young Castilloas growing all around at random. From Mr. Cork's house the view up the valley with the great mountains in the immediate background, and over a great expanse of ocean in front, with several water spouts provided as if to order, elicited such expressions as "superb," "entrancing," "exquisite." Arriving at Port Antonio at 5 o'clock, the whole party was taken to the Hotel in buggies, without a hitch. Dinner, fire works and a procession of gaily lighted boats on the waters in front of the Hotel and a ball in the evening were all provided for the occasion. The visitors were so charmed with the

free hospitality and the excellence of all arrangements that they drew up a Round Robin thanking Mr. Grabow for his kindness, which was signed by all the party including the press representatives from the United Kingdom.

At 8 o'clock on Sunday morning the visitors started by special train for Kingston arriving back at 2 o'clock.

On Monday forenoon they were brought down by special cars from Constant Spring Hotel and the Conference opened precisely at the hour fixed, 11.30, the Governor presiding.

His Excellency in opening the proceedings said :—Sir Daniel Morris, gentlemen and delegates of the West Indian Agricultural Conference.—It is with peculiar pleasure that I find that it has been my good fortune to have to-day to open the very first conference of this kind which has been held in the Colony of Jamaica. I believe that this is the sixth Conference which has been held in the West Indies, but it is the first which has taken place in this island. I am personally aware that Sir Daniel Morris took very great trouble last year in order to bring about this conference, and it was a great disappointment to him and myself and the people of this colony that his efforts on that occasion were not successful. This present year I congratulate him on the success which has attended his efforts. (Cheer.) I also, in mentioning that, wish to acknowledge the great debt that the colony owes to the generosity of Sir Alfred Jones, (applause) for were it not for the very great interest which he has taken in the colony all along, and for his generosity on this occasion, I am afraid it would have been impossible to hold the Conference this year. I will not trouble you with a long speech. I know there is an enormous amount of work to be done and that the delegates are very anxious to get to business. I can only say that, speaking as an individual, my belief is that we in Jamaica have an enormous lot to learn from the delegates to the Conference : I am afraid we shall have a great deal more to learn from them than they can learn from us. Of course that is only my individual opinion and I do not wish to pledge Jamaica to it. I believe there is a great deal of business before us and we shall have very valuable papers read before the Conference which will be of interest not only to Jamaica, but the whole of the West Indies and also tropical islands beyond this hemisphere. I wish to welcome to Jamaica on this occasion the very distinguished and numerous company which Sir Alfred Jones' kindness has brought to these shores. I welcome them in the name of Jamaica and assure you that we are highly gratified at seeing so many people here present—people who carry such weight in the whole of the British Empire. In the name of the colony I wish to extend to them a welcome : and I hope that such of them as are visitors for the first time will continue to pay us the compliment of coming here in future; and I hope that as often as they come they will see greater progress around them due to all the agencies to which progress is due, but amongst them last but not least the exertions of conferences of this kind. I now declare this Conference to be open, and I call upon Sir Daniel Morris to deliver his presidential address. (Applause.)

Sir Daniel Morris then delivered his inaugural address in which he referred to the agricultural work being done in the various West Indian Colonies. He described shortly the state of the various staple and minor industries and reviewed the prospects for these and the whole situation as regards agriculture and trade.

A vote of thanks was moved by the Archbishop of the West Indies. His Grace in a powerful extempore speech deplored the manner in which the smaller colonies were made the battle-dore and shuttlecock of the party government at home and contended that this should not be the case : that the colonies suffered greatly through the want of continuity in colonial policy, as it made planters uneasy and uncertain, and they were unable to formulate plans for their various industries.

The Hon. Howell Jones seconded and Sir Daniel Morris briefly replied.

Precisely at 1 o'clock the Conference adjourned for lunch. At 2.30 the Conference was resumed, the various papers and discussions being on the Sugar Industry.

At 3.33 while Mr. J. R. Bovell was addressing the Conference there came a great rushing noise through the air and simultaneously a rumbling and heaving underground, swaying, shaking and heaving up the building, bringing down plaster and some bricks, but fortunately the structure —although old and worn enough to be thought in need of a thorough overhaul and repair—did not come down. Very few conceived at the moment that such a disaster had overtaken Kingston lower down. Most of the people in the Hall rushed out, but some remained coolly in the building and most fortunately nobody at the meeting was hurt at all. Unfortunately,a few who came out in the s.s. *Port Kingston* and were at the forenoon session did not return in the afternoon and were in the city:— Mr. A. M. Nathan, who had been so enthusiastic with several schemes for the development of various industries of Jamaica, and Sir James Fergusson, Vice-Chairman of the Royal Mail Co., were both killed in Harbour Street : also a good many others who were in the Hall in the forenoon and did not return to the afternoon session, including Capt. Constantine, of the Royal Mail Co., Mr. James Wilson, Manager of Caymanas Sugar Estate and Mr. J. M. Gibb, Veterinary Surgeon—all well known men.

This terrible disaster happened just when every prospect in Jamaica was at its brightest, when prominent politicians and merchants from the United Kingdom had come out on a visit to view the beauties of our much talked of Island and to investigate the prospects for developing industries, the chief among these being Cotton. Schemes had been drawn up on board the *Port Kingston* for various enterprises and there is no doubt that some of these would have been carried through. Some of the foremost press representatives from the United Kingdom were also present to take notes and write about the Conference, and about Jamaica generally. From the list published at the end of this article it will be seen how important the party was. It is perhaps fortunate that such men were here when the earthquake happened as they can tell exactly how things stood with us and how we behaved in the emergency—as the *Port Kingston* did not leave till the Friday following at 4 o'clock. They can tell that it was the buildings in Kingston that suffered, and these fell because they were composed of brick and plaster—and poor plaster at that. Outside of Kingston some buildings of the same type were damaged, whereas solid stone buildings as a rule, wooden buildings, and concrete buildings, did not suffer, and if our buildings had been built with some regard to stability in view of possible earthquakes as well as hurricanes, probably there would not have been a single fatality in Kingston. Our crops did not suffer, therefore our productive capacity is practically the same as before. Besides the terrible loss of

life there is of course the tremendous loss of stocks in Kingston, not only of imported goods in stores but coffee, cocoa, etc., on the wharves for export. The principal wharves, however, of the shipping companies —the Royal Mail, Direct Line and Hamburg-American, are all safe. The ships that come here will be loaded the same as before, and as our crops are very promising, we may possibly export more this year than in 1906 which was an exceedingly good year. Therefore we need not be too pessimistic as to our prospects. Every country suffers at times from Natures blows of one kind or another. We have many reasons to be thankful.

At the Conference we had arranged an exhibit of Island products and the list of exhibitors is given below. The Jippi Jappa Hat Factory had 8 girls at work plaiting hats and the Jamaica Tobacco Co. intended to have men and girls making cigars and cigarettes, beginning on Tuesday Other products on exhibition included Jamaica Creamery Butter, Hams and Bacon, Preserves and Sweets, Cornmeal and Cattle Food, besides our better known export industries—Bananas, Coffee, Ginger. Trinidad had a fine exhibit of rubbers while other colonies had also special exhibits.

Sir Alfred Jones is stated to have said that this disaster would not interfere with the plans of himself and his friends for furthering industries in Jamaica, and Sir Daniel Morris said he still hoped to carry through the Conference of 1908 in Jamaica. At least we understood him to say so. We like this spirit of not being daunted by this rough interruption of plans. If any people become frightened of places because of a disaster, such as happened to Kingston—a disaster which can be to a great extent guarded against now that this generation knows Jamaica is not immune from devastating earthquakes—then nothing great would ever be done anywhere. Defeat should only spur to determination not to be beaten.

LIST OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR CONFERENCE 1907.

Sir Daniel Morris, K.C.M.G.
Hon. B. Howell Jones, British Guiana.
Robert Ward, Esq., British Guiana.
H. W. Sconce, Esq., M.A., British Guiana.
Hon. Carl deVerteuil, Trinidad.
Prof. P Carmody, F.C.S., Trinidad.
J. H. Hart, Esq., F.L.S., Trinidad.
R D. Anstead, Esq.. B A., (Grenada) Rep. Windward Islands.
W. N. Sands, Esq., (St. Vincent) Rep Windward Islands.
I. C. Moore, Esq , (St. Lucia) Rep. Windward Islands.
Hon. C. F Condell, (St Lucia) Rep Windward Islands.
H. G. Grist, Esq , (St. Lucia) Rep. Windward Islands.
His Lordship the Bishop of Barbados (Rev. W. P. Swaby, D.D.), Rep, Barbados.
J. R. Bovell, Esq , F.L S., F.C.S , Rep. Barbados,
Hon. F. T. Clarke, M.A., Rep. Barbados.
G. Elliot Sealy, Esq , M.C P., Rep. Barbados,
T. W. O'Neal, Esq., B.A., M.C.P., Rep. Barbados.
George Carrington, Esq., B.A , F.C S , Rep. Barbados.
Hon. E. St. John Branch, (Antigua) Rep. Leeward Islands.
Hon. Francis Watts, C.M.G , D.Sc , etc. (Antigua) Rep. Leeward Islands
J. Jones, Esq., (Dominica) Rep. Leeward Islands.
F. R. Shepherd, Esq., (St. Kitts, Nevis) Rep. Leeward Islands
S W. Penrice, Esq., Rep. Leeward Islands.
Hon. J. C. McIntyre, M.C.P., Rep. Leeward Islands.
Hon. J. Cox Fillan, Esq., M.L S , (Dominica) Rep. Leeward Islands,

LIST OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR CONFERENCE, (contd.)

H. A. Ballou, Esq., M.Sc., Imperial Department of Agriculture W. I.
F. A. Stockdale, Esq., Imperial Department of Agriculture W.I.
A. G. Howell, Esq., Hon. Sec. to the Conference.
Mr. Price, Barbados.
Mr. Chinnery, Barbados.

Along with the members of the local Reception Committee (published in Dec. *Journal* p. 586).

HONORARY MEMBERS FOR THE CONFERENCE FROM GREAT BRITAIN.

Earl of Dudley
Sir Alfred L. Jones, K.C.M.G.
Sir Ralph Moore, K.C.M.G.
Sir James Fergusson
Sir Thomas Hughes
Vicount Montmorres
Rt. Hon. H. O. Arnold Foster, M.P.
Mr. J. Henniker Heaton, M.P.
Rt. Hon. Jesse Collings, M.P.
Mr. Hamar Greenwood, M.P.
Mr. A. A. Pearson, C.M.G.
Mr. W. Howell Davis, M.P.
Hon. Alexander McDowell
Mr. Charles Lancaster
Mr. T. Lawrence
Mr. P. Murray Hunter
Mr. John Taylor

EXHIBITORS
WEST INDIA AGRICULTURAL CONFERENCE.

Hon. Dr. Pringle,	Bananas.
United Fruit Co.,	"
G. W. Webb,	"
L. P. Kerr,	Creamery Butter and Confectionery.
Lt.-Col. Pinnock,	Hams and Bacon.
Geo. L. Lucas,	Canned Fruits.
J. H. Levy,	Corn-meal.
Jamaica Preserves & Honey Co.	Preserves and Honey.
Jamaica Tobacco Co.,	Golofina Cigars.
Machado Bros.,	Cigars and Cigarettes.
Hanover Agricultural Society,	Criollo Cocoa and Cocoa Pods.
R. L. Young,	Navel Oranges.
R. J. Miller, Christiana,	Ginger, cured and green.
J. H. Clark,	Lemons and Grapefruit.
F. Ellice Hopkins,	Picture S. S. *Port Kingston.*
Hon. H. E. Cox,	Tea.
Women's Self Help,	Fancy Work and Curios.
Hat Factory,	Jippi jappa Hats.

PRESS REPRESENTATIVES.

W. R. Caine, Cassell's Syndicate.
J. Maguire, Manchester Guardian.
J. H. Harood Protheroe, Manchester Courier.
James Parkinson, B.A., Manchester Evening News.
P. Phillips, Standard.
H. E. Roslyn, Bristol Times & Mirror.
J. Dods Shaw, Press Association.

COCOA.—CROPS AND DRAINAGE.

We had a record crop of cocoa in 1906, not entirely because of many young trees coming into bearing but because of the season just being typical for cocoa—sunshine and shower alternately and neither too prolonged.

The prospects for this year are that we shall have as good a crop as last year. To the end of December 1906—that is 9 months record—we exported nearly 40,000 cwts, while for the twelve months before, our total was 31,660 cwts., and the year before the hurricane of 1903, we exported 39,953 cwts. Our total for the year 1906-07 to 31st March should be about 41,000 cwt. and we look for still more for 1907-08.

The value of complete drainage is being more recognised in growing cocoa and we see many plantations with most complete systems even on the hillsides. It was hard to get some planters to recognise that hillsides required drainage, and that this, too, saved surface water from washing tons of good soil away.

A good test of heavy mulching should now be made by every planter: a good thatching of the soil twice a year, not only keeps down that great enemy, and expense, weeds, but keeps the soil soft, moist and cool, while of course the mulch gradually becomes manure and is really the best method of adding manure to permanent crops.

The more Nature hits us hard by any means the more we should try to guard against its effects, and make the most of the shining hour. Our seasons for three years back have been very fine, but instead of trusting to a continuation of these, we should brace ourselves up to study our work, get more knowledge of our crops, and apply new knowledge with intelligence.

COCOA PEST.—A REMEDY WANTED.

I desire information that will assist me, and if you can obtain it I shall be obliged, even if it be necessary to publish the following remarks.

My experience in growing cocoa on the hilly lands near Troja has proved to me that young cocoa trees are very liable to the attacks of the grub of the orange weevil.

After the tree has been growing five years however and is bearing, the bark around the root has become harder and seems less liable to such attack.

It goes without saying that a tree in an unfavourable position, or whose growth has been retarded or affected by earth being heaped about the root from a trench or along the side of a road, should be be most liable to such attack.

In nearly every case however of a fine healthy tree dying suddenly I have been able to trace and find the grub of the orange weevil at work. Lately I have had two very fine bearing trees five years old growing under the most favourable of conditions in every way destroyed by this obstinate little grub.

The trees have been the finest in a healthy group and are proof positive that this grub kills the heathiest of trees and not alone diseased trees, as I believe has been maintained by Mr. Cradwick and others.

A treatment for diseased trees or those that appear not to be thriving is of no use to me. I want a useful treatment for all the trees in my cultivation and one that is reasonable in cost.

My experiments with bisulphide of carbon have been very unsatisfactory.

Following the advice of a noted planter I spent £3 or more treating the crown of the roots with soot or lamp-black, and the results indicated that I had better have left the trees treated alone.

Then I have tried white-washing the lower portion of the trunk for 18 ins, and placing white lime around the base of the trunk but I cannot see that much benefit has been derived from this treatment.

Now the only thing that I can think of is to wrap a rough rope of tobacco around the base of the trunk and allow the rain water trickling down the trunk to work the tobacco juice or water into the soil.

Can any of your correspondents suggest a better plan, or will any of the many cocoa growers of Jamaica give me the benefit of their experience on some well proven system of treatment.

JNO. LOCKETT,
Troja.

COTTON.

WITH the small cultivator, as well as the large planter, it is never wise to put all the eggs in one basket. It is right to specialise in one or two main things, but it is always well to adopt a policy of "hedging" and have some variety. The season that is favourable for one thing is often unfavourable for another, but it is very seldom that the seasons are unfavourable for all the crops that we grow, or for all live stock that we raise. Sugar planters who often specialise in that one cultivation should consider the advisability of "hedging" with Sea Island Cotton. It is not necessary to commence with a big cultivation; an acre is sufficient and if it is planted on the 15th of March the picking should take place July and August and should not interfere with operations on the cane, whereas an autumn crop planted on 15th August would come in January and February just when the sugar crop was at its height.

The demand for cotton in Great Britain has never been greater. Trade in every direction in the United Kingdom has been at its greatest during the last year. Instead of Lancashire reducing its output as many dolefully prophesied when we first talked of cotton growing here additional mills have been put up in all directions and there is a demand for cotton and still more cotton.

We should certainly like to see Jamaica specialising in Sea Island Cotton, but one planter, who has not had trouble with the cotton worm, says it is because he has adhered to Egyptian Cotton and although the price for that kind is less, the crop is heavier than Sea Island. It has been noted that the Caravonica Cotton, introduced from Australia, though only planted on a very small scale, has been most robust and vigorous.

We have some more imported Caravonica Cotton seed from the originator to give out to those who will promise to cultivate it properly and report upon results carefully. We have also some native grown Caravonica seed.

TICKS.

THE long dry weather experienced over most of the Island and especially in the principal cattle rearing districts, has favoured the reproduction of ticks, and with the cattle falling off in condition owing to the drying up of the grass, they are more than ordinarily troubled with these pests.

In the February *Journal* of last year the experiences of prominent penkeepers in dealing with ticks were published in full, giving the preparations they used, the cost and results. There are a good many preparations that are quite effective in killing ticks and keeping them off for a week or two. The orthodox way here is to drive the cattle into a pen by instalments, pick off the large by hand (having also a flock of fowls to assist, which they do materially) and then wash the cattle especially between the hind legs, and the udders of the cows — which are the special places of attack as the hair is less thick there. Where small herds are kept this is perhaps the most effective way, but for large herds it is slow, tedious, and expensive. In some other countries large herds are sprayed with some tick destroyer but this is a very wasteful method because the liquid does not get under the hair, and also because of the quantity of liquid that is wasted. The easiest, cheapest and most effective method in the end for large herds is by dipping. A tank is built into the ground, with sloping entrance and exit: a railed lane is made from the cattle pen leading to this tank, gradually narrowing to allow of only one beast at a time going into the tank. The tank is filled with the mixture, being deep enough to force the beasts to swim, and replenished to make up the loss at each dipping—the cattle are driven through, and come out dripping, the surplus drip running back to the tank. A large herd can be passed through quickly and the animals soon learn what is expected of them. Two men can run the herd through. The first cost of a tank would soon be covered by the time, tick-mixture, and labour saved.

Unfortunately many, perhaps most of the large and increasing number of small owners of cattle never pick or wash their stock at all, and so the efforts of those who are determined to get rid of ticks are largely discounted. Shutting up of pastures, burning them over, and other methods are good enough, although the Jamaica tick is a hard customer to kill that way, but the most effective method is to give the ticks no chance to increase by picking and washing, and where large herds are kept, dipping. We appeal to all our members who keep cows to be careful not to allow ticks ever to grow large enough on their stock to be fertilised, fall off and breed, but check them by constant picking and washing.

JAMAICA RUBBER.

(Forsteronia floribunda)

This rubber is not dealt with in commerce although samples have been priced higher than any other rubber.

Source.—It is obtained from the stems of a climber known locally as "Milk Withe" or "Rubber Withe" which are generally as thick as a man's wrist, but when old the stems may be six inches or more in diameter for a distance of 20 to 30 feet from the ground, then branching into several stems and growing to the tops of trees over 100 feet in height. Such stems on being slightly cut with a machete exude latex in the greatest profusion. The plant also grows over

the rocks fully exposed to the sun, or climbs over bushes. If planted out in plantation form 6 feet apart in a limestone country, its growth is rapid and it would be easy to tap. At present it is widely scattered over rough country or through forest not having ever been protected in any way.

It is reported in books that the "Milk Withe" grows plentifully in the limestone districts of the central and western parishes where the surface is exceedingly rough and difficult to traverse on account of the sharp and jagged edges of the hard crystalline limestone. The soil is lodged in hollows of varying extent and depth between the projecting rocks. But as a rule it is only found there now because such land is uncultivatable and the plant has been allowed to grow. Formerly it grew all through the virgin forest in the central hills, but in the clearing of the forest it also was cleared out

Collection of Milk.—When a cut is made through the bark of the Milk Withe a milky juice flows out for about two minutes, but a number of incisions are necessary before sufficient fluid is collected to fill a four ounce bottle. Care should be taken not to cut into the bark deeper than is necessary so that the wound may soon be healed by the formation of new bark.

Yield.—On samples from old vines it was reported that one quart of juice yielded one pound of dry and washed caoutchouc, or about 22 ounces of ordinary crude caoutchouc, but a sample sent in 1890 yielded only at the rate of two ounces per quart. Probably the difference was due to collection in the former case during the dry months and in the latter during the wet season.

Samples of this rubber sent lately to London were valued at over 6s. per pound.

Preparation of the Rubber.—The rubber coagulates simply on exposure to a dry atmosphere.

Propagation.—This plant may be propagated by seed or by cuttings. Cuttings are easy to grow and make good growth in favourable places. Although this plant grows in apparently poor soil, so long as it is rich in lime, its growth is more rapid on good soil, rich in humus and slightly shaded.

We have known and watched this plant for a good many years and have often thought that while we were paying so much attention to Castilloa and Hevea, Ceara and Fontumia our own native rubber offered as good prospects in certain situations as those better known rubbers. Of course for the banana and cocoa planter, with the view of providing permanent shade for his cocoa, it would not do at all. But certainly the Milk Withe appears a neglected source of production of the finest rubber. Here are its advantages summarised. The lands where it grows best are very cheap at present; it is easy to propagate by seed which is not plentiful, and cuttings which can be got plentifully. Its growth in good limestone soil is quicker than trees, it is hardy and has no enemies, the quality of the rubber, as to value set upon samples at present prices of rubber is higher than any other. It grows in a good climate where malaria and mosquitoes are not; neither dry nor wet weather nor storms can kill it out nor can they do it appreciable harm.

CATTLE DISEASE.

It was reported to us by a penkeeper in St. Elizabeth that he had lost a good many head of cattle in close succession and he thought it might be Anthrax. We immediately referred him by telegram to the Journal for July 1906, and later sent full description of symptoms and what was to be done, by letter. We also reported the matter to the Government and were asked to get full specific information as to the reported outbreak. We accordingly made enquiry, but were informed that the death of the cattle was not due to Anthrax but through natural causes. We are very glad of this and at the same time take the opportunity to thank the particular penkeeper for his promptitude in informing us, because if it had been Anthrax the old adage "a stitch in t me" would have applied.

DAIRYINC.

The earthquake in Kingston combined with the dry weather in lower St. Andrew has dislocated the dairy indus ry which was fast assuming importance. Green food for cows is scarce and what guinea grass can be supplied is quickly drying up and becoming almost useless for what it is wanted for---to provide succulence in the dietary of cows. Tu-n so many people had their houses destroyed, that the whole city and suburbs are disorganised and people either dispense with milk or find tinned milk *more convenient*.

We have always held that despite our winterless climate and the fine seasons we have had for three years there are many difficulties to contend with in the dairy business here and one of the chief is to provide green food during the spells of dry weather which fall upon the plains. We can always look for these from the middle of June until the middle of August and during January, February and March. This year, the dry spell commenced in the middle of November and continued until the middle of February and had become rather serious. We do not look for rain in February, which is the one certain dry month of the year, and the drought was not expected to break until the second week of March when "corn" rains fall usually. Fortunately we have had rains in February. We have contended that dairymen should look upon this period of dry weather as their winter and provide against it and that can only be done by cultivating green food, and possibly by storing in silos also.

Fortunately St. Mary and Portland and parts of St Ann have had fine steady showers all along and all vegetation there has kept green and fresh.

Two Dairy Shorthorn Bul's have been imported in January, one a Lincolnshire Red by Mr. A. C. L. Martin of Great Valley, Manchester, and one by Mr. W. FitzHerbert for St. Helen Pen, St. Catherine.

POULTRY NOTES.

The setting season has come round again and th se who are anxious to get pullets to lay from October to January when eggs are scarce and therefore dear should be careful to hatch during March as many chickens as they can rear. Probably not more than tw nty five per cent of the eggs set ever result in chickens and less than half of the chickens hatched are raised Faults are made in the setting of the hen. When a hen is free to steal her nest it will

be found that it is situated in a cool, dark corner and is well formed, like a bird's nest, and she usually hatches out every egg. But when a nest is made for her, it is most often placed in a box quite open, hardly any soft material in it, often only a few handfuls of coarse banana trash, where the eggs can roll about, all with poor result in chickens. Copy nature. The cool damp earth is the best foundation, hollowed like a saucer, some soft grass put in well raised at the side (like a bird's nest) and not more eggs put in than the hen can cover well. Every day the hen should be taken off, if she does not come off voluntarily, as some hens are very close sitters and hurt themselves and harm the eggs by sitting on for some two or three days at first without coming off for food and to air the eggs. A hearty feed of corn should be provided, and cool water, and nothing left to chance. The hen may be off 20 minutes at first and after the first week half an hour with advantage, even an hour at midday would do good.

When the chickens hatch, remember nature has provided for them for the first twenty four hours, as just before they leave the shell, they draw into their body all the remaining yolk in the egg. So that there is no hurry to feed them. It is time enough to provide food when the hen steps out, and begins eagerly scratching the earth. Coarse oatmeal, brown rice, stale bread toasted and crumbled, and duck ants are the best foods to begin. After two or three weeks finely ground corn, our handiest food may be given, and any table scraps. A little food five times a day the first week is required, four times a day for a month afterwards, and then where they have a free run, three times a day will do.

The troubles of chickens are first and foremost Rats; second Hawks; third, and the easiest to guard against, Mongoose; fourth Sickness chiefly Indigestion, Yaws and Roup.

For rats, traps should be set regularly every night: people fail to check rats through want of persistency. The rats may not go in the traps made to catch several at a time, for awhile, but some night they start and many can be caught regularly. The "Out of Sight" trap s sure and deadly but can only catch one at a time. Rat Virus is effective but must be used strictly according to directions It is not a poison and is absolutely safe for all other domestic animals. The ordinary rat poisons are effective but as a rule dangerous to other stock. For hawks the gun is best, but they can be poisoned and all their young when these are in the nest, by dosing several small chickens with small doses of Strychnine for two weeks, and then placing these where the hawks will take them away. Mongoose unlike rats are timid animals and do less damage than any of the other troubles mentioned. They are easily scared by dogs trained to hunt around the domicile, and by traps. People fuss too much about the Mongoose: it is no great scourge at all. If it is a pest, its relation to rats as a scourge and cause of loss is about a hundredth part. Both mongoose and rats can be safely poisoned by getting a bamboo with two joints open at both ends with a closed joint between, and putting two poisoned baits in. No chicken, cat or dog, can get at the baits thus placed and if mongoose do not find the baits out in the day, rats will find them at night. Diseases of chickens we shall treat of simply in April *Journal*.—

Everyone knows that eggs are an invaluable article of diet, but everyone does not know that the flavour and quality of eggs are greatly affected by the food given to the poultry and also by the

health condition of the fowls I have known perfectly fresh eggs, laid by a hen suffering from liver disease, to be most objectionable in flavour, so if you desire to have good eggs, it is absolutely necessary to feed your hens properly and to keep them healthy.

At the present time eggs are very plentiful and as they cannot be sold readily, the thrifty housewife should adopt some means of preserving them. Three or four months hence they will be almost unobtainable, and a few dozens carefully stored will be found most useful during the time of scarcity. Water Glass or Silicate of Soda, often mentioned here, is the best preservative.

PIGS.

It having been reported to the Government here from Trinidad that a herd of 200 pigs had to be slaughtered there owing to an outbreak of Swine Fever caused by infection from some imported pigs introduced into the herd from New York, the Government referred the matter to the Board of Management. They advised that until full information had been obtained from the Agricultural Department at Washington as to the prevalence of Swine Fever (Hog Cholera) in the United States, the importation of pigs into the Island from that country should be prohibited. The Government therefore did so. As all our importations for the season had been made, this has not caused any inconvenience. We had lately imported from the United States one full grown pair of pure-bred Poland China pigs, (the sow being already in pig by an unrelated boar) for Mr. S. S. Stedman, Buff Bay, a half grown pair of Poland China pigs for Mr. Marchalleck, Morant Bay; and one pair of Essex pigs for Dr. Todd of Black River, All these had a clean bill of health before leaving the United States.

Poland Chinas are a large long bodied breed useful where there is plenty of feeding, as on banana estates, and where settlers keep one or two pigs only, have abundance of hand feeding, and can wait 18 months to 2 years at least before marketing their pig. But for those who let pigs run on pasture and find most of their feeding, with only slight additions, the Poland China will not do, but will degenerate into a long-legged, gaunt, bony creature. This is where the old fashioned China pig comes in useful. It is of easy, contented disposition, a small feeder, quiet, thriving on grass, in default of anything else and ready for market at 9 months to a year. But unfortunately no fresh blood was ever introduced to keep this type pure, and it has been inbred to the greatest extent, father and mother brother and sister repeatedly until its constitution is delicate and it falls an easy prey to Hog Sickness, and the troubles comprised in that term here. It is for this type of pig that we introduced the Essex pigs for fresh blood and we strongly recommend breeders in St. Elizabeth who desire to run their pigs on pasture and to be used for the local pork market to use the Essex boar imported by Dr. Todd on their sows. The result will be strong, hardy, stout, easy fed pigs ready for market at 9 months. For the bacon market a different type of pig is necessary and for this the Berkshire breed is the best here, but like the Poland China these pigs require plenty of good and varied feeding to bring them to market size. A cross between the large and small breeds or *vice versa* is very useful for both purposes and results in very strong active animals, hearty feeders and quick growers, but these also must have good hand feeding.

A great deal of so called Hog Sickness here is not the dreaded scourge Swine Fever or Hog Cholera If it was, it would spread quickly and kill out nearly all the pigs in a district. Indigestion and constipation are rife, sometimes both together, caused by want of green feeding and want of rough stuff, and principally exists among penned pigs where the ground although it may be scraped "clean" occasionally, is so saturated with excrement that the pigs will not rout. When pigs rout in fresh earth they find sundry bits of feeding and they crush up bits of stick and a good deal of earth—this roughage they must positively have just as chickens must have grit. When pigs show signs of indisposition, looking dull and falling off, at once dose with three tablespoonful of castor oil and one tablespoonful of Jeyes Fluid mixed in it. Then give a handful each of woodashes and charcoal in the soft food : in fact if charcoal is always kept before the pigs and is clean, there will be no indigestion. Corn cobs charred make good charcoal. Lack of plenty of fresh water is often an additional cause of sickness.

HONEY.

If the dry weather does not continue too long this should be a good honey year. Beekeepers have been exercising more care in keeping their stocks strong through the season, ready to start on the logwood and other blossoms that are in profusion during the early months of the year. It ought to be remembered, but a good many beekeepers forget it, that bees require a good quantity of water just as other animals require it and when they do not find it at hand waste a good deal of time seeking for it. In all districts without streams of water near by the apiary, water should be set down for the bees Our honey has been gradually working up to a high standard and in a report by the Commercial Agent London for Cape Colony we notice in reference to South African Honey it is stated that "It is not up to the standard of English Honey which realises about 6d to 8d per lb for stained and about 8d to 10d for clean. The foreign honey that we import *is from Jamaica* and it is against this honey which is obtained in almost unlimited quantities that the South African product will come into competition. We may mention that the usual packages and casks of about 3 cwt. each and casks containing 256 lb. tins, the following represent the market value assuming the packages to be the same as Jamaica, viz:-- 3 cwt barrels:---No. 1. Bright Liquid, good texture and flavour valued 28s.; No. 2 Liquid rather dull, good texture, flavour a little *too strong* 25s.; No. 3 Pale yellow, good good aroma and texture but flavour slightly strong, 24s. The demand for wax is strong and steady. Jamaica wax is in as good demand as its honey, but unfortunately there are some fools,--- although they deserve a much stronger epithet---who have again begun adulterating the wax with flour, cornmeal and other substances Such practice is criminal and we may tell them here that there are very simple methods of detecting such adulterations and these methods are being used by the Jamaica Preserves and Honey Co., and we recommend other merchants to adopt them also so that there can be no possibility of such adulterated wax being shipped. The villains who try it in should be prosecuted.

In the notes by the author of "Modern Bee Farm" in his book, we find it is stated that long weeks of drought diminish the honey flow for unless there is a fair amount of moisture in the atmosphere, except at night, the bees seem unable to extract very much honey.

As with the larger kinds of live stock, so it is with bees, it is the breed and strain of the breed that generally makes all the difference between profit and loss. Some strains of bees give remakable returns. The Editor of the British Bee Journal has obtained as much as 1,360 lbs. from 7 hives and this sold at 6d per lb. The question of strain of bees has certainly been too much neglected in the past. Inbreeding too, is as harmful for bees as it is with other stock. This also has not been recognised. Fresh queens of a good working strain should be introduced regularly.

Beekeeping.—For the past three years the honey business has been on a decline in Cuba on account of bad seasons. To my certain knowledge there are not half the bees now in Cuba there were three years ago. Many lost all by foul brood and starvation I lost last year from 800 down to 300, and most of these were only scraps of swarms; but I succeeded in increasing them to 650 hives in August, when I had to leave for Havana on account of the revolution, leaving a man in charge. Consequently I lost over 100 hives by thieves; queenlessness, etc. The future of the honey business in Cuba is far from bright.—Correspondent "Gleanings in Bee Culture."

Switzerland has 36 experment stations dealing with bees and these find abundance of scope for improving the industry.

GUINEA CORN.

Guinea Corn is a native of Africa. The variety called Kaffir Corn is grown in South Africa. Another variety called Dhurra is grown in North East Africa where its flour becomes the bread of the Arabs and is the grain feed of their camels. The great value of the different varieties of Sorghum is that they grow and thrive on a great variety of soils too poor to produce good crops of great corn and they will stand conditions of dry weather that would be fatal to corn. The growth is not injured nor seriously set back by drought or hot winds, and unlike corn the plant rapidly revives with a shower of rain. We had the opportunity of observing how well the different varieties of guinea corn can stand drought this season. The seed was planted in September including Kaffir Corn, Jerusalem Corn, Red Dhurra, native Guinea Corn and a few seeds of a variety from the Philippine Islands. No rain fell from the 7th of November. The seeds were ripe in January. The corn from the Philippines was the quickest in growth, grew to a greater size, and gave a better yield than any of the others. Its habit of growth differed from the others throwing out its seeds in branches, not forming compact heads like the others. Thus from the moment it sends out its flowers they are exposed to all the sunshine possible and the seed quickly forms and matures. The black Kaffir corn was the next best, not growing to such a great size but maturing its crop very quickly. An especially remarkable feature with all these varieties was that when cows broke in and cropped part of it, the crop was not destroyed, but very quickly sent out side-shoots and made two heads instead of one with hardly any difference but a delay of two weeks. Some of the plants formed as many as six heads. Again it was remarkable that their ratoons started and grew vigorously without having had any rain whatever. It seems to us that this would be the finest crop possible for dairymen in dry districts, if planted thickly. The great drawback with Guinea Corn is usually the attacks of birds on the crop, but we were not troubled in this way. We have a small quantity of seed to spare and as guinea corn has been almost out of cultivation, we trust some few careful cultivators will raise a plot of it this year. It can be planted from the 15th of March and the seed of the early varieties will be ready by the end of June and may be planted again from the 15th of August.

A great deal of so called Hog Sickness here is not the dreaded scourge Swine Fever or Hog Cholera If it was, it would spread quickly and kill out nearly all the pigs in a district. Indigest.on and constipation are rife, sometimes both together, caused by want of green feeding and want of rough stuff, and principally exists among penned pigs where the ground although it may be scraped "clean" occasionally, is so saturated with excrement that the pigs will not rout. When pigs rout in fresh earth they find sundry bits of feeding and they crush up bits of stick and a good deal of earth—this roughage they must positively have just as chickens must have grit. When pigs show signs of indisposition, looking dull and falling off, at once dose with three tablespoonful of castor oil and one tablespoonful of Jeyes Fluid mixed in it. Then give a handful each of woodashes and charcoal in the soft food : in fact if charcoal is always kept before the pigs and is clean, there will be no indigestion. Corn cobs charred make good charcoal. Lack of plenty of fresh water is often an additional cause of sickness.

HONEY.

If the dry weather does not continue too long this should be a good honey year. Beekeepers have been exercising more care in keeping their stocks strong through the season, ready to start on the logwood and other blossoms that are in profusion during the early months of the year. It ought to be remembered, but a good many beekeepers forget it, that bees require a good quantity of water just as other animals require it and wh-n they do not find it at hand waste a good deal of time seeking for it. In all districts without streams of water near by the apiary, water should be set down f r the bees Our honey has been gradually working up to a high standard and in a report by the C mmercial Agent London for Cape Colony we notice in reference to S uth African Honey it is s ated that "It is not up to the standard of Eng ish Honey which realises about 6d to 8d per lb for stained and ab ut 8d to 10d for clean. The foreign honey that we import *is from Jamaica* and it is against this honey which is obtained in almost unlimited quantities that the South African product will come into competition. We may menti n that the usual packages and casks of about 3 cwt. each and casks containing 256 lb. tins, the following represent the market value assuming the packages t be the same as Jamaica, viz:-- 3 cwt barrels:---No. 1. Bright Liquid, good texture an l flav ur valued 28s.; No. 2 Liquid rather dull, goo l texture, flavour a little too strong 25s.; No. 3 Pale yellow, good good aroma an texture but flavour slightly strong, 24s. The d mand for wax is strong an l steady. Jamaica wax is in as good demand as its honey, but unfortunately there are some fools,--- although they deserve a much stronger epithet---who have agai i begun adulte ating the wax with flour, cornmeal and other substances Such practice is criminal and we may tell them here that there are very simple m thods o detecting such adulterations and these methods are being used by the Jamaica Preserves and Honey Co., and we recommend other merchants to adopt them also so that there can be no possibility of such adulterated wax being shipped. The villains who try it in should be prosecuted.

In the notes by the author of "Modern Bee Farm" in his book, we find it is stated that long weeks of drought diminish the honey flow for unless there is a fair amount of moisture in the atmosphere, except at night, the bees seem unable to extract very much honey.

As with the larger kinds of live stock, so it is with bees, it is the breed and strain of the breed that generally makes all the difference between profit and loss. Some strains of bees give remakable returns. The Editor of the British Bee Journal has obtained as much as 1,360 lbs. from 7 hives and this sold at 6d per lb. The question of strain of bees has certainly been too much neglected in the past. Inbreeding too, is as harmful for bees as it is with other stock. This also has not been recognised. Fresh queens of a good working strain should be introduced regularly.

Beekeeping.—For the past three years the honey business has been on a decline in Cuba on account of bad seasons, To my certain knowledge there are not half the bees now in Cuba there were three years ago. Many lost all by foul brood and starvation I lost last year from 800 down to 300, and most of these were only scraps of swarms; but I succeeded in increasing them to 650 hives in August, when I had to leave for Havana on account of the revolution, leaving a man in charge. Consequently I lost over 100 hives by thieves; queenlessness, etc. The future of the honey business in Cuba is far from bright.—Correspondent "Gleanings in Bee Culture."

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AGRICULTURAL STAFF AND THE EARTHQUAKE.

Two special events were being carried through at the time of the earthquake—the West India Agricultural Conference and the Teachers Course at Hope. Both were naturally stopped, but the Agricultural Instructors, Mr. Cradwick, Mr. Arnett and Mr. Mennell who were engaged at the Course very soon after took up the work of clearing dead bodies from the streets and burning the carcases of animals. They were engaged at this work until the Saturday, the following week they returned to their ordinary duties in the country. The Secretary and clerk were engaged at the Conference and after seeing everybody safely off the premises, immediately set off to see what had happened to the office at 1 Port Royal Street and finding it was wrecked, instantly turned their attention to fighting the fire and helping the wounded at which they were engaged all night. From Tuesday until the end of the week they were engaged clearing bodies and burning carcases, and in rescuing papers and books from the old office, also in getting the temporary office at the Old Mico ready for business. By the end of the week business was being again regularly conducted. Afterwards the Secretary was engaged part of his time in regulating food supplies, and since has also been assisting the Relief Committee. At the request of His Excellency the Governor, the Board of Management have agreed that for two months most of his time will be devoted to Relief work, an assistant secretary being employed as a substitute under his direction for that period. Of course great loss has occurred to furniture, such as desks, tables and stationery, but fortunately a good deal of the office equipment was at the Conference Hall and has been saved. This enabled office work to go on. It will involve, however, a good deal of expense getting new equipment.

COMMENTS

Anthrax—Some time ago the Agricultural Society strongly recommended to the Government that it be made compulsory that all dead bodies of animals should be burned or buried. This was done primarily on information supplied by us as we had found that in some districts cases of Anthrax were becoming more frequent especially among small settlers cattle, the settlers simply allowing the carcases to lie and rot to the great danger of penkeepers' herds in the same district. As a matter of fact in the very district we had under notice, we are informed by a correspondent, cases of Anthrax have been occurring ever since, and we do not know the moment when through some favouring circumstances which have not occurred before, this dread disease may become epidemic. Cases we know occurred lately among a penkeepers cattle, the disease being introduced by a small settlers cow taken on pasturage which died of the disease, necessitating the removal of all the stock from that pen. An outbreak of anthrax in St. Vincent has caused such long continued trouble that Prof. H. E. Annett, M.D., D.P.H., Liverpool, who previously had reported on diseases of cattle in Nigeria and on Anthrax in Argentina, was engaged to report and advise on the trouble in St. Vincent.

Rat Virus.—We again call attention to this agent for the destruction of rats. It has been tried here with the greatest success, and a good many people have also failed with it. The latter occurs for two reasons we think,—the first is that they have not carefully followed the directions and the second is that the Virus has been exposed to too much heat and light before being used and has become sterile. This Virus is contained in glass tubes and these tubes have now been enlarged so that there is more value for the money.—The smallest tube obtainable costs 2s 6d, the large tubes containing six times the quantity can be had

for 8s. One of the greatest advantages in using this compared to rat poisons is that it is perfectly harmless to man and domestic animals; it is only rats and mice that can be killed by it. It produces a very contagious disease in these animals which spreads very quickly so that one tube may cause the death of hundreds of rats.

AGRICULTURAL CONFERENCE.—We have received from Sir Daniel Morris a pamphlet entitled "West Indian Agricultural Conference, 1907," being a reprint from the "Barbados Advocate" whose reporter accompanied the delegates. There are several little slips in the narrative, but considering that an earthquake intervened between the first sitting in the Conference Hall and on what ought to have been *terra firma*, and the second sitting carried through at sea on board the *Port Kingston*, it is exceedingly accurate indeed. The truest full account of the earthquake and after events is also contained in the "Barbados Advocate," reprinted in the "Jamaica Times." It was written by Mr. Chinnery, who accompanied the Barbados delegates to the Agricultural Conference.

VEGETABLES.—We expect to have on hand a fresh consignment of vegetable seeds and Cow Peas in time for planting in March and April.

SHOWS.—The Porus Show which was to have been held on January 24th, the Trinity Ville Show on Feb. 14th, the Montpelier Show to be held on February 28th, and the Christiana Show to be held on March 7th, and the proposed Show at Hampstead, St. Mary, have all been postponed meanwhile. If the Island's circumstances allow it is hoped some of these Shows will be held further on in the year. St. Ann's Show will be held as usual at Thicketts on 1st August.

RUBBER.—In 1906 there were in Ceylon more than 104,000 acres of land planted in Rubber, almost solely Para Rubber. The experience there with Para has been entirely satisfactory, whereas Ceara Rubber which was largely planted about 20 years ago never realised expectations. Castilloa Elastica in Ceylon grows with great rapidity at first, it then slows down and although it yields freely at first tapping, it has no wound response and dies if too severely handled. Consequently it has been only planted on a small scale. Therefore it is all the more necessary that we should carry through careful tapping experiments here with the different varieties of rubber trees we have—and we have all the above of an age to be tapped—some indeed are ten years growth.

THE STALLION "SIR GERALD"—The Society's Welsh Pony Stallion "Sir Gerald" has been removed from St Andrew to northern St. Elizabeth and is now stationed at Magotty pen, Siloah P.O., near Appleton Station, c.o. Mr. J. D. Mennell. The fee for service is one guinea, pasturage being extra. Mr. Mennell owns a very fine pair of "Sir Gerald" fillies standing 14.2 which ought to be a good advertisement for the Stallion.

We must make plain again that this Stallion was brought out here for a certain specific purpose. This was to breed good harness horses, not race horses. He is exceptionally well developed in chest, neck and shoulder and he has proved prepotent in fixing these attributes on his progeny. All the objections put forth about him have been falsified by experience. It was said by race horse devotees that he was only to produce "rats," i.e., the contemptuous term used for diminutive horses; he was not to prove prepotent on thorough-bred mares; he was vile tempered and vicious; his progeny would have no stamina, and all the rest of it. As a matter of fact he is mild tempered and docile; he is very prepotent, more so than any individual stallion in the Island; almost invariably his progeny can be "spotted" as Sir Gerald's by their stout shape and handsome appearance; he has bred mares which have never held to any horse before though repeatedly tried; his progeny are handsome, sure-footed with high action and always sound; they are not uniform in size of course running from 13.3 to 15.2 according to the mare, her treatment and the district. In Hanover some of his 'gets' are 15.2.—We can claim that he has bred as many uniformly good ponies as any other Stallion, introduced into this island. No Thoroughbred Stallion in existence breeds uniformly good progeny even from the same mare. "Sir Gerald's progeny are invariably hardy, too. They also have taken more prizes at Shows during the last few years as harness horses than any other individual Stallion, and they have sold for as good prices as those of any other individual Stallion.

BULLS.—The King's Shorthorn Bull "Desmond" has been removed from Great Valley, Manchester, to Dove Hall, Bog Walk P.O. c.o. Mr. J. W. Mills, to whom applications for services should be made, as well as to the Secretary.

The Red Shorthorn Bull presented by Sir Alfred Jones is still at Mandeville. The Roan Shorthorn is with Mr. R. L. Young, Tobolski, Brown's Town. Both Bulls are keeping well and active.

ORANGE BOXES.—A member of Congress, U.S.A. has introduced a bill to standardise the size of orange boxes. They are to measure 11¼ inches in width 11½ inches in height, 23 inches in length inside measurement and 26 inches in length outside measurement, in case such boxes or crates should contain a middle partition. This is the standard size we in Jamaica use at present, but if the bill is passed it will prevent any other kind of package being used. There is not much chance of the bill passing anyhow.

COLD SPELLS AND CITRUS FRUITS.—At Christmas time we had here in Jamaica a cold spell when the temperature in the plains was as low as 54 degrees and at an altitude of between 2,000 and 3,000 feet it went as low as 49. At the time we looked through various newspapers from the Southern States and Cuba to find if the same cold spell had been felt there, but failed to see anything particular about its effects. Now, however, in the "Florida Agriculturist" of the 23rd January we see letters from correspondents on the subject. One says :—"We are again compelled to acknowledge to ourselves that we have frosts even in Southern Florida. The morning after the last cold spell December 26th was not unlike waking after a bad dream wondering whether it really was true that our tropical vegetation had grown stiff from the cold and that we had seen ice one-half inch thick." Another letter says :—"The nights of December 24th to 26th were below freezing point and oranges still on the tree suffered even where they were fired. The thermometer registered as low as 18 degrees. Our papers are having but little to say, perhaps for the fear that it might hurt the sale of lands. We think it would be wise to divert as much capital and energy from orange culture as possible and turn it to general agriculture." We here in Jamaica are too ready to believe in over-production and that we cannot make things pay. In Florida they have to struggle against cold, and still manage to ship great quantities of citrus fruits.

PURE FOODS.—A Pure Food Law is now in force in the United States whereby it is illegal to use terms calculated to mislead the public as to the contents of a package. For instance, any substance alleged to be coffee must be real coffee and nothing else. Words may not be used to play on the word Coffee as formerly, such as Fig Coffee, Cereal Coffee, and so on. It is the same with other food products. Such a law was much needed as previously the public hardly knew what they were eating, in spite of labels on packages.

SUPPLIES TO KINGSTON.—After the earthquake supplies of food stuffs and fruit were sent in from the country promptly and generously so that there was absolutely no lack at all. In fact there was more than could be utilised at the time without waste so that those in the country who were organising this form of relief were telegraphed to, to hold back until communicated with by the Relief Committee. The Government allowed such relief stuffs to come free by rail. In order to encourage the sending of provisions into Kingston after free relief was stopped, the Government also allowed half freight on all kinds of provisions, and wet sugar in tins, and this continues. To encourage the use of native lumber also the Railway rates were reduced 25 per cent.

EGYPTIAN COTTON.—A consignment of Egyptian Cotton, raised near Montego Bay sent to Liverpool realised 8d per lb.

CARAVONICA COTTON.—The Caravonica Cotton seed of two varieties the Silk Cotton and the Wool, imported from the originator, M. Homattis, Cairns, Queensland, Australia, has grown well in every district it was planted. We ourselves had some planted, along with Sea Island Cotton, under close observation. The Caravonica Cotton is a vigorous grower and should not be planted so close as Sea Island even in dry districts. We think 5 feet by 3 close enough, but certainly no closer than 4 by 3. It has good crops, but proportionately we think not more than Sea Island. We should be glad to hear the experiences of other growers. There is one thing especially about it and that is its hardiness. It withstands drought, breeze and apparently also insect pests. Still as regards the last point this has not been a good year for

test as there have been practically no insect pests prevalent, while the year we started planting Sea Island Cotton seemed to have been a year when all kinds of insect pests were more prominent than usual, not only with cotton but cassava and garden crops. It was a caterpillar year and we notice that these pests were prevalent about one year out of every five. This Caravonica Silk Cotton is one that we can recommend to be grown for further trial and it would not matter if it was grown close to Sea Island and the two varieties cross fertilised. This seed was very expensive and is sold by the originator at a high price. We have a few pounds from a grower here and we have a small quantity of imported seed also. We shall be glad to send out these in small quantities, for intending growers to test, at cost price ; if only a few seeds are wanted we can give a few free on the guarantee that they will be carefully grown and results reported.

St. Vincent Yam.—"While judging the Holdings in Manchester we saw a great deal of St. Vincent yam being grown. It seems to yield remarkably well. One of the competitors dug out one hill, which had been planted with one head and had one vine only, which weighed 180 lbs; this is a record for one vine so far as I know. If it can be relied upon to bear at this rate it would be a cheap thing to grow for pig feeding"—W. Cradwick.

BRANCH NOTES.

Aeolus Valley.—A Council Meeting of the shareholders of the A. V. L. Trading Loan Bank was held February 1st, 1907, in the Schoolroom. Present Rev. A. Cole, Chairman, and five shareholders. Several members of the Agricultural Society, and visitors were also present. Meeting began with prayer. Minutes of last meeting read and confirmed. The business of the meeting was to receive the report of the Treasurer on a report of a Council Meeting held Saturday, the 13th Sept., 1906 when the Loan Bank was brought to its final issue, and 30 shares taken at 5s. per share, with an additional 6d. per share as an entrance fee to defray expenses, &c., &c. Five more shares taken December 11th. The Treasurer reported the working of the Bank three months to date December 13th, 1906. The interest on money loaned brought a profit of £1 6s. 7½d. The result was satisfactory. The Secretary moved a vote of thanks to the Treasurer, seconded by Mr. Harding and carried. At this juncture the meeting went into other sections of business.—R. A. Jones, Secretary.

Appleton.—A meeting of this society held on the 9th February. It was the second annual general meeting. In the absence of the chairman, Rev. W. S. Lea, Vice-chairman, presided. Forty members were pesent. The meeting discussed the shipping of produce to England by the Society and a Special Committee, consisting of the Chairman, Messrs. Groves and Doran, were appointed to draw up rules, etc. The following officers were elected to serve during the year :—Mr. J. M. Farquharson, Chairman; Rev. W. S. Lea and J. G. Doran, Vice Chairmen; Mr. G. Ramtallie, Secretary and Treasurer. Secretary's report was read for the year 1906 which in parts is as follows : "The Society has increased in membership by leaps and bounds having at the end of the year 146 members, a total gain of 87 during the year. Nine meetings of the Society were held during the year and the president attended 7 of these. Mr. Cradwick, Travelling Instructor paid 5 visits, Mr. Palache one and Mr. Barclay one. These visits were highly appreciated and add much to the advancement of the Society. Two Shows were held during the year one in April and the other in December and both were very successful. At the April Show there were 115 entries and December 436. There was a net balance of £4 at the April Show and over £8 at December Show making a total balance of over £12 in hand for Show purposes. In treasurer's hand for the Society for the year ending 31st December is £3 17s 8d Altogether the past year for our Society was a good one and we hope this year will be better. I shall be very glad if you could make arrangements and pay our Society a visit sometime soon. I shall send you at an early date a revised list of our members.—Geo. Ramtallie, Secy.

Bath.—We had been expecting a visit from the Travelling Instructor, Mr. Briscoe, in the week following the terrible disaster. The visit of course would have been postponed. We hope Mr. Briscoe is safe and well. Things have

been quiet during the last few months in regard to Branch business. The high winds of some weeks ago have seriously set back the banana crop. Stems filling out were blown down, and the Spring crop is also seriously affected. The demand for fruit has far exceeded the supply since that time. The prolonged dry is telling upon all vegetation. In the Bath district, some rain is falling Planters in other districts would welcome showers. The earthquake was the one topic of conversation after Monday afternoon 14th. The news of the disaster in Kingston was not surprising though the appalling dimensions of it were beyond all expectation or our imagination. Not much damage was done here —in comparison. The walls of several of the churches were cracked; and some dwelling houses as at Stokesfield and Stokes Hall were injured.—DAVID D. PARNTHER, Secretary.

CHRISTIANA.—The annual meeting of Christiana Branch of the Agricultural Society was held on February 1st R. J. Miller Esq. J.P., President of the branch presided. The following resolution was unanimously agreed to, "The Christiana Branch of the Agricultural Society, at this its first meeting since the dreadful calamity of January 14th, which wrought such destruction and desolation to so much life and property in this fair Island, would place on record its sincere sympathy with all those families who have been bereaved by death; with those who have been wounded, and expresses the hope that they will be speedily restored to health, and with all those who have in any way suffered by this great disaster. It would also place on record its thanks to those gentlemen who formed themselves so expeditiously into a Local Relief Committee for organising help, also to the people who responded so heartily and liberally to the call for help. The heartfelt sympathy of all has been stirred and the Society feels confident that if any further call is made it will be at once responded to. It approves of the action of the Local Relief Committee and feels it can safely leave the matter in their hands. It trusts the Island will soon recover itself from the blow it has so suddenly and unexpectedly received. In view of the pre ent distress and the need for help in various ways it decides to postpone the Show it contemplated holding next month and urges all its members to concentrate their efforts in helping to relieve the distress that must be felt by many for months to come." The annual report was read, as follows:—The Managing Committee of the Christiana Branch of the Agricultural Society has pleasure in reporting that the work of the Branch has been carried on with vigor during the year. The membership for the year is 51 which is considerably more than for the previous year. Six meetings have been held during the year, four quarterly and two special meetings. The attendance at these has been encouraging but there is still great room for improvement in this respect and the Committee would venture to ask the members to make an effort to attend all the meetings during the present year. The Branch has been very acceptably served by Messrs. Palache, Cradwick and Barclay all of whom gave most valuable addresses on various subjects. During the year a step has been taken to improve the breed of pigs in the district by the purchase of a thoroughbred Polard China Boar. This animal is being kept by E. A. Bayley Esq. and is ready for service now. Suckers of special varieties of seedling sugar canes have been obtained from Hope Gardens through Mr. Palache and distributed among the members with a view to improving the cane cultivation of the district. The Show which was to have been held next month has been postponed in the meantime. The Treasurer's report was also submitted and showed the Branch has a few pounds in hand. The following were elected the Office-bearers for the year. R. J. Miller, Esq., J.P., President; E. A Bayley, Esq., Vice-president; D. Walker, Esq., Treasurer; Rev. Dr. Turner, Secretary; Mr. W. C. Leslie, Assistant Secretary and Messrs. J. Wright, R. Shaw, R. Easy, J. Butler, and G. A. Robinson members of the Managing Committee. Thirty-one members were enrolled for the new year 1907. The next Quarterly meeting was fixed for April 5th. The earthquake of January was felt all over the Christiana district and was allowed to be the most severe ever experienced. Many shocks, not so severe, have been felt since. Beyond some cracks in the walls of the Court House and some other houses little or no damage has been done. No rain has fallen now for some weeks and vegetation is dry and parched looking. The ginger season is in full swing and the weather is all that could be desired for this purpose.—D. Y. TURNER, Secretary.

CAMBRIDGE.—This branch, although not very large as yet, promises to do well as some of its members are much interested and very energetic. At present the appearance of the crops—coffee, banana, and vegetable—is not very promising. This is accountable for from the weather. During November and December, for eight or nine weeks, there was a constant strong north wind, which laid low all banana plants on exposed situations and greatly weakened or reduced the vitality of those in more sheltered parts. From Christmas eve to Friday eighth instant (February) there was no rain, hence vegetables sown and potatoes planted during and after December are either clean gone or are so stunted in their growth as to give no hope of a return. This branch, through the instrumentality of one of its members, who is also a member of the St. Andrew Parochial Board, contributed foodstuffs to the relief of the sufferers by the earthquake. The earthquake shocks of the 14th January last were very much felt in these parts, but we had no loss of life. Several houses were damaged, the earth was much torn up, and several landslides took place; two especially at Hall's Prospect formed prominent land marks for incoming and out-going ships to and from Kingston Harbour.—R. A. CLARE, Secretary.

DAVYTON.—Owing to uncontrollable circumstances, I was not able to send you the communication you asked for ten days ago. As regards our Branch, I beg to state that we have not been able to get a meeting together for some time now. Before sending a reply, we tried to get a meeting together one evening last week but that too failed; but we hope to call a meeting before the end of the month. On Friday Messrs. J. T. Palache and W. Cradwick were in my district judging the holdings. They judged 7 Holdings. The weather is very severe this way. There is little or no feeding for the animals. Water supply is scarce. Most people have lost nearly all their negro yams. They dry up even af er running over sticks. There is little corn this way. The wind and sun in November and December destroyed the whole crop. Tl earthquake shock was severely felt in this district but no real loss was su tained. Many houses have their walls cracked. Our church was severe shaken and the walls in many places damaged but not serious y. The wor damage in the neighbourhood was done to the house of my father, M Jno. Hemans. The house was thoroughly shaken and rent, with walls falle Had it not been that it was very strongly built, the result would have bee very serious. The houses of Mr. C. D. King and Mr. F. H. Davy in the san district were slightly damaged. Tanks were also rent, but when we compare the effects in our district with the east end of the island ours are unworthy notice. In spite of the drought, the animals are looking well generally. W begin to have heavy dew and all our fruit trees are looking up. Coffee an mango have started to blossom and good crops are expected. Nearly all th banana trees are dry and for a few months there wont be banana this way. believe that all things will look up very shortly.—J. THOS. HEMANS.

DEESIDE.—A meeting of this Branch was held in the Hastings Schoolroo on Tuesday evening, 22nd January, 1907—J. A. Foote Esq., presiding. It wa moved and seconded that all business of the Society be waived in order tha some means for the relief of the destitute and stricken inhabitants of Kingstc be considered. After a lengthy debate the Society raised the sum of £2 3s 9d which was forwarded along with a cart load of provisions towards the relief the sufferers. The meeting was brought to a close with prayer. I am glad report that little or no damage was done here by the terrible earthquake the 14th January. We have since the past month experienced very dr weather and high winds in this locality. We had only a little over an inch rainfall for the month of January consequently crops are suffering from th severe drought.—R. R. MCBAYNE, Secretary.

DUAN VALE.—We have held no meeting for sometime past as the services the Instructor cannot be got now. Re "Earthquake" very little damage ha been done. Crops are all quite safe: in fact Trelawny is all right. As soo as I have a meeting report will be sent up. I shall expect this month Journals as you said.—G. J. HAWKES, Secretary.

FAIR PROSPECT.—This Society held its Annual Meeting on Saturda February 2nd 1907—Mr. R. H. Ellworthy President, in the chair. Th meeting was opened with prayer, after which minutes of a Committe Meeting held during December were read and approved. Minute

of last monthly meeting (December) were also read and confirmed. Correspondence.—A letter from the Secretary of the parent Society *re* affiliation fee was read—the local Secretary was instructed to reply saying the Society would give the matter its early attention. Another letter from, Mr. Barclay was read, to which the Secretary was also instructed to reply congratulating the staff on their escape from the recent earthquake and also to give such information as was required. Reports.—The Treasurer's financial report was presented showing ten shillings and four pence (10s 4d) to the Society's credit. The Secretary's report was also presented which showed, among other things, that during the year under review nine regular and five special meetings were held; (b) A small show was held among its members by the Society in the end of August last, and that over five pounds were expended in defraying prizes, etc.; (c) That a good type Boar was bought for the benefit of the members of the Society and for every other person in the district who would seize the opportunity. Unfortunately, for the Society, the pig died in December after doing service for fully five months. (d). That twelve members were received during the year. These were adopted and a vote of thanks accorded The President next gave his address, during which he read copy of a letter he had written to the Hon. Chairman and members of the Agricultural Society assembled at the Conference in Kingston. This was approved of by the meeting. The Speaker thought we should all discuss Agricultural matters more this year. At this stage minutes of a postponed meeting held in January were then handed to the Secretary (who was absent from that meeting): the standing orders were suspended and the minutes allowed to be read, same were confirmed. Appointment of officers followed. The Secretary having occupied the chair pro tem, on behalf of the Society thanked the (other) retiring officers for their past services. Office-bearers were appointed for the ensuing year, as follows:—R. H. Elworthy President; L. A. C. Brown; C. G. Street, J. S. Clachar V.P's., W. Z. Buckley Secretary; David Munroe Assistant Secretary; J. W. Munroe, Treasurer. The following seven gentlemen, with the forementioned officers, were also elected to serve on the Committee, viz., Joseph Thompson, John Burke, Albert Kelly, Josiah Munroe, Claude Deans, Alfred Taylor, and Alfred Harris. There has been no serious result of the earthquake around these quarters, outside of the partial destruction of most of the churches. *Re* Crops: cabbages and tomatoes promise to do well this season, but it is doubtful of a good market: bananas are scarce and the price remains same: ground provisions are not as plentiful as is desired and there is now a good chance of making money out of them. The peasantry in this district are going in largely for purchasing Hartford property, which evidently means an increase of produce for the next season.—W. Z. BUCKLEY, Secretary.

HANOVER.—A meeting of the Hanover Branch was held on Saturday 16th Feb, 1907. Mr. Mennell the Agricultural Instructor was present and was given a hearty welcome. The office bearers were chosen for the year; they are the same as last year with the exception of the Rev. A. B. Mullings as chairman of the Green Island District in lieu of Mr. Robert Watson. Reports were handed in about the seeds that were distributed. The severe dry time seems to have played havoc with most. So far as I have learned the potatoes have not yielded any more than what was planted. But they are dry and taste well. The Brownsville Jippi Jappa Hat Class has finished and the teacher Miss Shaw is now engaged teaching a class of sixteen pupils in the Dryhill district. There are demands being made for teaching in other districts. It was agreed to receive orders for Jippi Jappa plants. Orders were taken for 2,000; it was agreed that the Secretary should order 3,000 plants as the demand seemed to be so great. The above shows that the industry is being pushed. The start was given at the Show in August last year when Messrs. John E. Kerr & Co. gave a demonstration in hat-making and straw curing and when Lady Swettenham interested herself so much in the industry. It was decided that we should not hold a Show this year at Lucea; but that the energy of the Society should be devoted to make the Prize Holding Scheme successful. It was unanimously agreed that fifteen extra prizes of small amount should be given by the Society in addition to those given by the parent Society.—JOHN F. GARTSHORE, Hon. Secretary.

HANOVER.—For three months we have had north winds more or less strong and a very cool, drv time. We have not had anything like it during 15 years residence. The long continued drought is telling on the plants, many of the yam plants being scalded. The bananas are not filling quickly. The demand for yams, and bananas has been steady and has proved a boon to the people. Ginger is better this year owing to the dry weather and a better price is obtained. The Society distributed a lot of vegetable seeds in November but we fear the long dry time has been against the growth. Where the plants have been watered they have done well. The earthquake was distinctly felt and was the worst ever experienced, but practically no damage was done. The people of Hanover responded heartily to the appeal for foodstuffs and money to help the distressed. There have been one or two showers lately but a good soaking rain is required to make the ground workable for the planting of yams. We rejoice to learn that the staff of the Society escaped in the late disaster. JOHN F. GARTSHORE, Secretary.

LAMBS RIVER.—The earthquake shock was severely felt here, but no damage was done. People were awfully frightened. Teachers and children ran outside and so did many who were inside their houses As soon as it was made known that Kingston was destroyed great sympathy was aroused in every heart towards the sufferers. Great was the distress of mind expressed by many who have relatives residing in the city and could not hear anything of them. Our Vice-President, Rev. T. B. Prentice was very energetic in asking aid from friends around. In a short time we were able to send away a collection of foodstuffs :—one cart load. A member of the Society did the same thing in his district and succeeded in sending away a cart load of provisions too. A small sum was collected by Mrs. Prentice who also got some of the women to sew pieces of garments which were sent away. We learn with thankful hearts of the help coming from various quarters. Our Society will hold a meeting on the 22nd inst. At this meeting Mr Cradwick is expected to be present. We intend arranging for the teaching of Jippi Jappa Hat making. That was the chief subject which engaged our attention at the meeting in December. At that meeting Mr. Mennell was present for the first time. For over 10 weeks we have been suffering from sharp dry weather. Many ponds and springs got exhausted. People have to go far for water. Grass is rather scarce. Since last week we have had two or three fine showers which were heartily welcomed by all. People are very busy looking after ginger. The crop this year is a good one. Price went up to 4d. per lb. before the earthquake, but since it keeps steadily at 3½ per lb —P. A. SMELLIE, Secretary.

NEW MARKET.—The Branch has not met since the beginning of the New Year. The Annual Meeting will be held on Friday the 15th inst., the 3rd Friday in the month, and members are respectfully requested to note this. We regret to hear of the loss sustained by Kingston in general and the Agricultural Society in particular consequent on the recent catastrophe and are glad to know that your staff is safe. I am glad also to report that no damage wha soever has been done in the districts covered by the Society. As soon as possible after the intelligence arrived from Kingston, our Chairman and the Rev. Lopp gathered foodstuffs from willing people and sent same by rail to the stricken town. I was away on holidays and could not give the help I would most certainly have given. Crops —The Pimento and Coffee are giving indications of a good showing this year, and we hope the expectations of the planters will, in a great measure, be realized. Ground provisions are plentiful and cheap. Weather.—We were having dry weather for a few weeks, but this is now more than broken, thus rendering the agricultural outlook very fair and satisfactory.—A. E. U. SHAKESPEARE, Secretary.

PORT MARIA.—We have not had a meeting for some time now, but this does not mean that there is any lack of interest in the Branch, or that there is the slightest intention on the part of any of its members to dissolve it. It has been recognized that the Branch has done very good work chiefly among the peasant proprietors, in teaching them, through the Agricultural Lecturers, to adopt better methods in the cultivating of their produce, and in curing and preparing it for market. Consequently a good deal of interest is taken in the affairs of the Society. A meeting will be held during the coming month to revise the list of members and to elect officers for the next financial year, which commences on

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1st April ensuing. The instructions and information given in the Journal from time to time have been exceedingly helpful, and cannot be over estimated. The work of Mr. Cradwick among the small settlers has been greatly appreciated, and his general demeanour has made him quite a favourite of theirs. A cold wave has been passing over the district for the past few months, and has, to some extent, affected crops. Fruit, which was expected to be ready for market in March and April, will not be reaped till later in the season and both grade and quality are expected to be poor. Fortunately for us no lives were lost here as a result of the earthquake, although store and shopkeepers suffered to the extent of about five hundred pounds, through the falling of shelves which were packed with goods all of which were destroyed. The walls of the Court House, Episcopalian, Baptist and Presbyterian Churches were damaged, but the other buildings in the town escaped uninjured. It is said that since the earthquake trade in the dry goods line has been brighter here than at any corresponding period in past year.—H. J. DAKERS, Honorary Secretary.

PORT ROYAL MOUNTAINS.—The earthquake did much damage to all stone buildings including all the churches and most of the coffee plantations. As far as the settlers are concerned there is very little damage which cannot be quickly remedied. The hills have been torn and rent in all directions and the roads from Gordon Town to this centre were blocked for a considerable time. The school building in which I worked partially collapsed killing 3 children and seriously damaging some half a score more. One woman was killed in the field by rolling rocks. The weather has been very dry, but slight rains are now falling occasionally. All crops are quite up to average: Ground provisions and other foodstuff are plentiful. Potatoes planted during the last part of last year, in spite of the long dry, are very promising.—C. D. RENALL.

PORUS.—The regular monthly meeting of the above-named branch was held in the Church School Room on January 7th '07. Rev. W. B. Esson, V P, in the chair. The minutes of last meeting was read and confirmed. The minutes of the last meetings of the Show Committee were read and dealt with separately. The Chairman moved that a vote of thanks to the Show Committees and to the two Secretaries also—which was heartily responded to. The Annual report of the Society was read by the Secretary (A. S. Rose) who stated that he was sorry that he was not able to give further wordings of his report; but intimated that he was quite prepared to answer any questions relative to the society's working put to him at the moment as this may be the last time when members may have an opportunity of asking him any question as a Secretary of the Society. The retiring Secretary's report is as follows:—"I am glad to be able to report for the information of the members of this branch, that although during the past year we had not attained that standard we anticipated at the beginning of the year, yet there are reasons to believe that we are in a more favourable position than the preceding year. In the first place the membership increased from 28 to 36 on books, and although the attendance had not been very regular more interest was evinced than in the past. We have had during the year under review nine regular meetings with the average attendance of 12. We also had five committee meetings. A fair in connection with this branch was started during the course of the year but owing to the inclement weather it did not succeed very well. I am however sorry to say that for some reason or other we had been very much neglected by the agricultural instructor in his visits as we had only two visits during the whole year. The next feature of progress in our branch which I am glad to report, is the headway its members are making as regards the long talked of agricultural show, which was first proposed by our energetic president H. S. Braham, Esq., who owing to unavoidable circumstances was bound to relinquish his office in the course of the year: but who nevertheless left the matter in the hands of an equally worthy V. P. in the person of the Rev. W. B. Esson, who is leaving no stone unturned to make the matter a success, and if the members of this branch would both contribute more liberally and devote a few days in preparing the grounds for the show we can look forward to a successful issue. It was moved by Mr. T. McPherson, seconded by Alex. Thomas, that the report, of the Secretary be adopted and a vote of thanks accorded him, which was unanimously done. The Treasurer was also asked to give his report when he did not give a written one, but orally (the account of the year ending 31st

Dec., '06,) which was accepted, and a vote of thanks was given to him. At this stage the meeting dissolved and the enrolling of members and officers to serve for the year took place. It was moved by V. N. Magnus that a vote of thanks be given to the V. P. (W. B. Esson) for his services of the past year which was done with one accord. Officers elected: Rev. W. B. Esson, President; Messrs. A. S. Rose and V. N. Magnus, Vice-Presidents; R. S. Munroe Treasurer; W. A. Morgan, Secretary; C. Rowland was nominated Assistant Secretary; no other business was before the meeting which was then brought to a close till Tuesday, 13th inst. On Monday, 21st inst. a meeting was held in the Court House to consider the formation of a Committee to raise funds for the disastrous earthquake in Kingston. The Committee formed consisted of S A. Hendrick, Esq., Chairman; Rev. W. B Esson, Treasurer; Rev. S. J. Washington, J. A. Daly, Esq., A. S. Rose, Esq., J. L. Hibbert, Esq., V. N. Magnus, Esq., D. Crosbie, Esq. Contribution list by the various gentlemen present was started and was fairly patronised. At the close of the foregoing meeting, members of the Show Committee met and discussed the prospect of the approaching show and postponed same for the 1st of August, 1907 on account of the present disaster in Kingston.—W. A. MORGAN, Secretary.

RIO MINHO VALLEY.—The earthquake shock took place here by our school clock, 3.30 p.m. The strong stone building rocked to and fro like a cradle rocked by a nurse, but the damage was slight excepting cracks which weakened the building but which do not render it at present unsafe. Many people were so frightened that they did not make any observations which can be relied on but the prevailing general opinion is that the rumbling came from the east and the shock travelled from the same direction. From my own observation, however, and from the way in which the bottles fell, it would appear that it was a combination of a rotatory and undulatory motion which travelled from the north-east to the south-west. Of course one cannot be quite correct in these observations without the aid of the required scientific instruments. Branch work is partly dead, but I am putting forth efforts to have matters revised. The Show was a grand effort but it burnt out some of the enthusiasm and we suffer much from the removal and loss of Mr. Hirst. Please put me in communication with Mr. Arnett, I do not even know his address. I wish to arrange with him for a meeting here which will I know help to arouse interest. We were contemplating a Show but it would appear to me that it would be well to postpone it but your advice would be welcome. We are having a very severe drought and the banana crop of the small man will be next to nothing. Vegetation is parched up and what with the recent earthquake and the red-hot proclamations from pulpits that it is the especial judgment of God for sins and the "Prepare to meet thy God" exhortations most of the ordinary people have lost heart and are doing next to nothing. The price of sugar is so low that it does not pay to make—3s. and 2s 6d per load in the Boiling House. Yams and other root crops don't promise well on account of the dry weather. Altogether the outlook for the year is not rosy but we must buck up and put forth extra energy to overcome our difficulties.—U. THEO. MCKAY, Secretary.

SANTA CRUZ MOUNTAINS.—Owing to the Agricultural Conference and other circumstances no meeting of this Society was held in January or in February, but the meeting for March has been duly intimated and we hope will be held. The draft rules for the President's Special Small Holdings prize have now been drawn up and circulated. The scheme is for the encouragement of cultivation upon homesteads, and takes the house and sanitary conditions into account in the scale of points proposed. The rules are as follows :—1.—Prizes will be awarded for improvement in the cultivation of land, and the establishment of permanent or staple crops. 2.—Only persons holding not more than 5 acres of land to be allowed to compete, and the land entered for competition must be one piece, not divided by other persons property intervening; but a road, river or gully may run through it. 3.—The holdings entered for competition must be owned by members of the above Society. 4.—The residence of the competitor to be on the ground entered for competition. 5.—Holdings will be judged—as found convenient—between April 1st, 1907 and 31st March, 1908. 6.—Competitors must have at least one acre in permanent crops such as—Coffee, Cocoa, Oranges,

Grapefruit, Limes and Coco-nuts. 7.—The judging will be conducted on a system of points as follows: Permanent Crops, thirty points; Catch Crops, fifteen points; Fence Gates, and general condition of Holding, fifteen points; Live Stock, twenty points; House, ten points; Sanitary Conditions, etc., ten points. 8.—The method of cultivation and condition of the crops grown rather than the kinds of Crops grown, to be considered by the Judges. Crops for which prizes are awarded need not necessarily have reached maturity, and points may be given for cultivation in progress, provided it is, in the opinion of the Judges, sufficiently advanced to admit of its being judged. The Judges to consider the circumstances of each cultivation, as well as the cultivation itself, including the implements used. 9.—It shall be competent for the Judges to withhold any or all of the Prizes if the Holdings entered for competition are not considered of sufficient merit. 10—The Judges decision to be final. Entries must be made to the Secretary at once. It is hoped that a large number will avail themselves of this Competition. The entry money is 3d. and all monies taken for entry fees will be used in giving second and subsequent prizes.—N. E. SEAL, Acting Secretary.

SANTA CRUZ.—The regular bimonthly meeting of the Society was held on the 29th Nov., 1906. The President, one Vice-President, Treasurer, Assistant Secretary, the Secretary and 11 members were present. After the reading and confirmation of the minutes of the meetings held on the 23rd October, 1906, and 16th November, 1906, communications from the Island Chemist and Mr. J. T. Palache were dealt with. The Show accounts were next presented and commented upon by the President. The list of prize winners was read. The Committee and judges received a hearty vote of thanks for the eminent way in which they carried out the work allotted to them. The surplus from the Show accounts involved a lively discussion, and upon the recommendation of the Committee it was decided to get some seeds for distribution to members and to lodge the balance in the Government Savings Bank to aid the next Show. The members of this meeting commit themselves to hold an Annual Show in connection with the Society on the day fixed for the celebration of the King's birthday, or upon any other day that may be found most suitable. The annual meeting which should have been held on the 31st January, 1907, for the election of officers for this year was postponed for the 14th February 1907. On the 21st December 1906, Mr. J. T. Palache the new Local Instructor, visited the Branch for the first time. The attendance was unfortunately disappointing, as only five members with the Secretary were present. This was due to the fact that the meeting was held at a time when all were busily engaged in one or another employment to meet Christmas Day. He lectured on corn, potato, and cassava and promised to revisit the Branch at its meeting in March. As far as membership goes, the Society promises to do well this year. The Show held in November 1906 seems to open up the way for better times with the Society for 1907. The district is suffering severely from drought. We have now had over two months of dry weather. Many stock owners are in great straits for grass and water. Very little if any planting can be done now owing to the drought. Corn is scarce. The current price is 5s. per bushel. We are hoping to have a shower or two by the time this reaches its destination. The earthquake felt here on Monday 14th January has not done any serious damage. The shopkeepers experienced slight losses in liquor. The walls of many stone houses including the Santa Cruz Court House and the Anglican Church at Gilnock, are slightly cracked.—S. R. BLYTHE, Hon. Secretary.

RED HILLS.—Considerable amount of damage was done by the earthquake in the district covered by the Red Hills Branch. The new houses did not suffer, but some of the older houses have fallen quite flat or otherwise badly damaged. Mr. Briscoe, the Instructor, has done some work in the district but no regular agricultural meetings were held as the President was sick and a number of the members were away from home working on the damaged roads.—JAMES M. WALLEN, Hon. Secretary.

ST. ANDREW.—No deaths resulted in the district from the earthquake, but the President of the Branch Mr. O. A. M. Feurtado, Bell Vue, was killed in Kingston. The only damage the earthquake has caused to buildings is to

the boiling houses of the small cultivators of sugar in Stony Hill, Mannings Hill, New River, White Hall, Mt. Tirza, Temple Hall, Belbow, St. Christopher, Rose Hill, Content, Essex Hall, Salisbury Plain and Parks Road to the number of about 50. As the people at this time of the year are engaged with their sugar crops this has caused great inconvenience and some of them will be hard put to renew their furnaces. Nearly all the churches and school houses are damaged; two houses have fallen and about six more have been so greatly damaged that they cannot be repaired. Our usual crop of peas has been a failure owing to the dry weather. The mango trees are in heavy blossom and there ought to be a large crop.—JOSEPH P. LEIGH, Hon. Secretary.

SARGEANTVILLE.—In reply to your letter of the 30th ult. I have to inform you that we have not had a meeting of our Branch for a long time now. Since the falling of the past year every meeting was washed away. We are now having very fine weather with an occasional light shower. Cocoa gives promise of a very large Easter crop. Bananas are scarce. Foodstuff in general is not plentiful. The shock of earthquake on the 14th ult., was very violent in this district. Massive stone buildings were destroyed by its effect. Every Church within a radius of 8 miles is badly damaged if not wholly destroyed. (stone buildings). Since the 14th ult. every day we are having lighter shocks of earthquake.—J. O. RENNALS.

TRINITY VILLE.—Only one life was lost in this neighbourhood by the earthquake. Two Churches have been destroyed and others slightly damaged. Weather exceedingly dry. Hardly any rain for the past two months. Gass very scarce, and stock getting into bad condition. Outlook bad. No plranting can be done. Bananas very scarce. The spring crop will be very late, if indeed there will be any. Agricultural Show indefinitely postponed. People have no heart for anything of that sort.—E. S. EDWARDS, Hon. Secretary.

ST. JOHN.—The members of this Branch are not as interested as I would like to see them. Of course we are suffering from a dearth of the well-to-do. We have a few but they are not members. As far as this Society is concerned there is a lack of interest on the part of the majority. The weather previous to the 31st January was exceedingly dry. For over 9 weeks we never had a drop of rain and as this district is red and stony many of the permanent crops such as oranges died. Corn, cassava, etc., practically perished in the drought. Water for man and beast could hardly be got. Guanaboa Vale Parish Church (for St. John's) and the Rectory were damaged by the earthquake. As a rule this part of Jamaica does not suffer at all from the earthquakes.—S. A. BANTON.

LIST OF BRANCH SOCIETIES.

NAME OF BRANCH.	SECRETARIES.	POST OFFICES.
Aberdeen	H. W. Hay	Fellowship.
Æolus Valley	Robt. A. Jones	Yallahs.
Appleton	Geo. Ramtallie	Siloah.
Balaclava	A. A. Doran	Balaclava.
Bath	Rev. D. D. Parnther, B.A.	Bowden.
Black River	A. A. Kennedy, B. A.	Black River
Cambridge	R. A. Clare	Gordon Town.
Clarksonville	Saml. E. Hall	Cave Valley.
Cornwall, (Central)	E. S. Jarrett	Ipswich
Clarendon, (*North-East*)	*W. B. Hannan*	*Crofts Hill.*
Clarendon, (Mid)	S. Algon Johnson	Four Paths.
Christiana	Rev. Dr. Turner	Christiana.
Duan Vale	E. J. Hawkes	Clark's Town.
Deeside	R. R. McBayne	Deeside.
Davyton	J. Thos. Hemans	Williamsfield.
Fairfield	H. E Wright	Spur Tree.
Fair Prospect	W. Z. Buckley	Priestman's River
Hanover	Revd. Jno. F. Gartshore	Flint River.
Hampstead	E. Saml. Exell	Hampstead
Hampden	I. Lawrence	Hampden
Lamb's River	P. A. Smellie	Lamb's River.
Manchester, (East Central)	W. M. O'Meally	Mandeville.
Manchioneal	L. R. McBean	Manchioneal.
Mocho and Brixton Hill	J. A. R. Rhoden.	Mocho.
Newmarket	A. E. U. Shakespeare	Newmarket.
Ocho Rios	L. C. B. Yeoman	Ocho Rios.
Pedro	W. J. Francis	Pedro.
Port Maria	H. J. Dakers	Port Maria.
Porus	W. A. Morgan	Porus.
Port Royal Mountains	C. L. A. Rennalls	Mavis Bank.
Portland, (Central)	Albert Roper	St. Margaret's Bay.
Red Hills	J. A. Wallen	Belvidere.
Rio Minho Valley	U. Thos. McKay	Frankfield.
Retreat	G. H. Harry	Retreat P. O.
Savanna-la-Mar	A. W. Levy	Savanna-la-Mar.
Springfield	D. A. Smart	Point.
St. Ann	J. C. McIntyre	Claremont.
St. George's	Rev. W. J. Thompson	Buff Bay.
St. John's	S. A. Banton	Guanaboa Vale.
St. John's, (Upper)	W. T. Edwards	Point Hill.
St. Peter's	J. Ed. Simms	Petersfield.
St. Andrew (Northern)	Rev. G. A. Miller	Lawrence Tavern.
St. Andrew (Central)	J. P. Leigh	Stony Hill.
Sergeantville	J. O. Rennalls	Bog Walk.
Santa Cruz	S. A. Blythe	Santa Cruz.
Santa Cruz Mountains	John Stewart	Malvern.
Trelawny, (Upper)	J. D. Easy	Albert Town.
Trinityville	E. S. Edwards	Trinityville.
Thompson Town	W. A. Bryan	Mocho.